

Section 10. Monitoring Program Funding Strategy

There are a number of resource issues within the air monitoring program that must be addressed to realize any success with the national air monitoring strategy. The national air monitoring strategy will result in changes to our air monitoring regulations, our data management and reporting structure, technical aspects of air pollution monitoring, and our overall program assessment and management. EPA will initiate a work group to review the current program funding and the new demands placed upon it in the national air monitoring strategy, and develop a plan for how EPA, States, local agencies, and tribal governments will manage our existing funding. Undoubtedly, there will also be a number of initiatives that may not have adequate funding. This funding work group will need to identify where these gaps exist so that appropriate levels of management can begin to broach the subject of securing funding.

Known Resource Issues

The National Air Monitoring Strategy Committee and the technology, quality assurance and regulatory work groups will address the technical merits of our existing programs and what improvements or changes must occur. Each group will also need to provide a cost estimate of the actual costs of operating a revised ambient air monitoring program. These cost figures will be used as input information for the funding work group.

The air monitoring community is aware of a number of existing resource issues that should be evaluated by this work group. A listing of these would include *at a minimum*:

- C Transitioning from the existing 103 authority to a 105 authority for the particulate matter grants. The 103 grant for particulate matter monitoring will need to address the new coarse particulate standard, if it is to be adopted. Given that complexity, when should this grant transition take place and over what time period?
- C Ensuring adequate QA resources, including movement of NPEP into STAG programs.
- C Evaluation of existing Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Station (PAMS) program funding in response to proposed changes. How can any available funds be intelligently applied toward other air toxics or priority monitoring areas?
- C Allocation of any increase to the air toxics monitoring grants, either increases due to existing funding being made available or new grant monies.
- C How to provide adequate funding for the continuous particulate matter monitoring program initiatives that are identified?
- C Meeting the NCcore and IT related fundings needs.
- C Ensuring stable funding.

EPA recommends that this funding work group be established in FY2003, after many of the technical recommendations on the national air monitoring strategy are generally agreed upon by the air monitoring community. This work group should consist of EPA staff who are conversant in air monitoring, grants, and the budgeting process, along with representatives from air pollution control agencies from the State, local and tribal agencies.